

REMARKS

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-37 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims have been amended to comply with the written description requirement.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-37 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 10 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Collins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,550,058). The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 10, 11 and 14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins et al. ('058). Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins et al. ('058) as applied to claims 1, 2, 5, 10, 11 and 14 above, and further in view of Horn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,326,800). Claims 8, 9, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins et al. ('058) as applied to claims 1, 2, 5, 10, 11 and 14 above, and further in view of Nilsen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,258,443-B1), Giles, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,543,291), Zabrocki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,334,450), Hull et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,496,000) and Adur et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,007,902). Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins et al. ('058) as applied to claims 1, 2, 5, 10, 11, and 14 above, and further in view of Grimm et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,856,371) and Perry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,221,436 -B1). The Applicant respectfully traverses. The cited references do not anticipate or render obvious,

either individually or in combination, the Applicant's claims 1-14. In independent claim 1 the Applicant claims:

*1. A method of forming a rubber-overmolded plastic casing, the method comprising:
 providing a plastic piece comprising a polycarbonate resin, the plastic piece being a part of a casing;
 applying a protective barrier comprising polyurethane directly to at least a part of the plastic piece; and
 molding a rubber layer directly onto the protective barrier over the plastic piece.*

The cited references do not anticipate or render obvious the Applicant's claim 1 because none of them teach a protective barrier comprising polyurethane applied directly to at least part of a plastic piece comprising a polycarbonate resin and a rubber layer molded directly onto the protective barrier. In contrast, Collins in Col. 6 lines 9 - 14 teaches that "[t]he structures of the instant invention may generally be made by first adhering or bonding the intermediate layer to the top layer and thereafter bonding or adhering these joined layers to the shaped polycarbonate resin substrate. The various resinous layers are bonded to each other *by means of suitable adhesives*." From this cited portion of Collins it is clear that Collins includes an adhesive between each of the layers of the structure so that there is no direct contact between the polycarbonate resin substrate, the intermediate layer (barrier layer), and the top layer of Collins. Additionally, each of the remaining cited references fail to teach the elements of the Applicant's independent claim 1. Nilsen teaches a layer of polyurethane sandwiched between two layers of plastic. Giles teaches plastic bonded to a tie layer of an olefin acrylate copolymer, the tie layer bonded to a polyolefin such as polypropylene. Zabrocki teaches a film structure of rubber bonded to a tie layer of polyurethane, the tie layer bonded to a material that is not a polycarbonate resin. Hull teaches polyurethane used as an adhesive in synthetic leather materials. And, both Grimm and Perry fail to teach the elements of independent claim 1.

Claims 15-22 and 25-37 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins et al. ('058) in view of Nilsen et al. ('443-B1), Giles, Jr. et al. ('291), Zabrocki et al. ('450), Hull et al. ('000), Adur et al. ('902), Grimm et al. ('371) and Perry et al. ('436-B1). Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins et al. ('058) in view of Nilsen et al. ('443-B1), Giles Jr. et al. ('291), Zabrocki et al. ('450), Hull et al. ('000), Adur et al. ('902), Grimm et al. ('371),

and Perry et al. ('436-B1) as applied to claims 15-22 and 25-37 above, and further in view of Horn et al. ('800). The Applicant respectfully traverses. The cited references do not anticipate or render obvious the Applicant's claims 15-37. In independent claim 15 the Applicant claims:

15. A method of protecting a plastic piece from reacting with a rubber layer molded over at least a part of the plastic piece, the method comprising:
providing the plastic piece comprising a polycarbonate resin;
cleaning at least the part of the plastic piece;
drying the plastic piece;
after cleaning and drying the plastic piece, applying a liquid solution to at least the part of the plastic piece;
curing the liquid solution to form a polyurethane coating directly on at least the part of the plastic piece; and
molding the rubber layer directly onto the polyurethane coating.

For the same reasons given above for independent claim 1, the cited references fail to teach or render obvious independent claim 15.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims 1 and 15 and the claims 2-14 and 16-37 that depend upon and incorporate the elements of the claims 1 and 15, respectively, are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references, either individually or in combination.

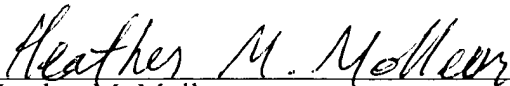
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If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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